



# RETURN

(102)

RETURN to an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 6th March, 1905, for copies of all petitions, memorials, and resolutions from Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the executive of that province, and any correspondence relative to the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba to the west or north.

R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
WINNIPEG, January 19, 1905.

The Honourable the Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I am this day forwarding to your address a Memorial from the Government of Manitoba, addressed to His Excellency the Governor General-in-Council, respecting an extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba.

D. H. McMILLAN,  
Lieutenant Governor.

*To His Honour the Honourable Sir Daniel Hunter McMillan, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, &c., &c., &c.*

REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council on matters referred to their consideration.

## PRESENT :

The Honourable Mr. Roblin (in the Chair), Mr. McFadden, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Agnew.

## ON MATTERS OF STATE :

*May it Please Your Honour:*—On the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council,

## COMMITTEE ADVISE

That the President of the Council and the Provincial Secretary be authorized to sign on behalf of the Executive Government of Manitoba an engrossed copy of an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in Council respecting an extension of the Boundaries of the Province, in the form hereto annexed, and that the same, when prepared and signed, as aforesaid, be forwarded by the Provincial Secretary to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

R. P. ROBLIN,  
Chairman.

4-5; EDWARD VII., A. 1905

I certify the above to be a true and correct copy of the Original Order in Council, No. 9662.

C. GRABURN,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
January 18, 1905.

Approved and ordered January 18, 1905.

D. H. McMILLAN,  
Lieutenant Governor.

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada :*

The Humble Address of the Executive Government of the Province of Manitoba, pursuant to authority given by the Legislative Assembly of the said Province, by Resolution adopted on the 16th day of January, A.D. 1905, sheweth as follows:—

1. That in the year 1870, what was known as Rupert's Land was formed into a Province called 'The Province of Manitoba,' comprising an area of 13,500 square miles, the population consisting of about 12,000 souls, 2,000 being white and the 10,000 Metis or French Half-breeds.

2. That after the formation of the said province, and up to the year 1881, the quality and productiveness of its soil attracted settlement over and above usual quota of increase generally falling to the lot of new countries, and in the year 1881, it being evident that the area of the province was much too small in order to permit expansion and development, the Parliament of Canada extended the boundaries of the province so as to comprise the following territory, that is to say:—

Townships 1 to 44 in ranges 1 to 29 west and east to the westerly boundary of the Province of Ontario, which westerly boundary was understood to be a line due north from the International boundary and passing some distance east of Port Arthur, having the effect of increasing the area of the province from 13,500 square miles to 154,411 square miles, but unfortunately as a result of a dispute between the Province of Manitoba and the Province of Ontario as to the proper boundary line between the two provinces (which ultimately was decided favourably to the Province of Ontario) the said area was reduced by nearly 100,000 square miles, leaving the area of the province at that time and at the present time (including water) 73,732 square miles, or excluding water, 64,327 square miles.

3. That to the west and north of the Province of Manitoba is a vast area comprising many millions of square miles, a large portion of which is sparsely settled and in an undeveloped state.

4. That in the year 1881, being the time the boundaries of the province were extended as above mentioned, the population of the province was 62,600, in 1891 152,506, in 1901 154,947, and at the present time the population is estimated at 350,000 souls, and the population of the North-west Territories in the year 1901 was 158,947 souls, and at the present time the population is approximately 350,000 souls.

5. That the large increase in the population of the Province of Manitoba within the periods above set forth, and particularly during the years of recent date, strongly denotes that rapid strides of advancement have been accomplished in the province since its formation, and it is alleged that the limited area of its present boundaries is a serious drawback to its proper and full development.

6. That it is believed that the extension of the boundaries of the province so as to comprise a portion of the territory to the west of the province and northward to Hud-

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 102

son's Bay, would largely tend to the material advantage of both the Province of Manitoba and of those persons within, and that hereafter may become resident of said territory.

7. That the province of Manitoba possesses legislative powers and advantages of an educational, commercial, benevolent and charitable character not at present possessed or enjoyed by the North-west Territories.

8. That similarity of interests, agricultural and otherwise, between the province of Manitoba and the proposed extended territory renders the accomplishment of such extension, as aforesaid, of paramount importance to both.

9. That the consummation of the said purpose does not present financial or other difficulties incapable of amicable, satisfactory and equitable adjustment.

10. That the extension of the present limited boundaries of the province of Manitoba would not only afford the means for development of territory at present largely in a semi-quiescent or dormant state, but would be in the best interests of the Dominion of Canada as a whole.

11. Hereto annexed is a true copy of a motion adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba respecting the premises :—

The Executive Government of the Province of Manitoba would therefore pray: That Your Excellency in Council will be pleased to take into consideration all and singular the premises, and base such action thereupon as shall have the effect of extending at an early date the boundaries of the province of Manitoba to comprise such part or portion of the North-west Territories west of the province of Manitoba and northward to Hudson's Bay as His Excellency in Council may deem just and equitable, and that an early date may be named for a conference between Your Excellency's advisers and the executive of the government of the province of Manitoba, on behalf of the said executive.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. H. McFADDEN,  
Provincial Secretary.

R. P. ROBLIN,  
President of the Executive Council of  
the Government of Manitoba.

## RESOLUTION.

Whereas in the year 1901 this House did unanimously pass the following resolution:—

Whereas the territorial area of the province of Manitoba is small in comparison with the area of most of the other provinces of the Dominion of Canada, while the machinery of government is as full and complete as would be necessary to govern and administer the affairs of a much larger territory, and

Whereas there are districts adjacent to the province of Manitoba that should be comprised within the limits thereof for the purpose of provincial autonomy, their agriculture, commercial and educational interests being in a great measure common, and a union thereof would tend to develop and strengthen the same, and

Whereas in the formation of the said adjacent territory into provinces, it is advisable in the public interests to include in the province of Manitoba as much of the area as possible consistent with economical administration.

Therefore, let it be resolved, that a memorial be presented to the parliament of Canada, praying that the boundaries of the province of Manitoba be extended so as to include as much of the adjacent territory, for reasons aforesaid, as may be consistent with economical and efficient government, and for the welfare and development of the people and territory therein comprised, having in view as one of the objects to be attained the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba northwards to Hudson's Bay, and

Whereas in the year 1902 this House did unanimously pass another resolution, which in part is as follows:—

Whereas, in the year 1870 the province of Manitoba was created, comprising what now may be described, as townships 1 to 17, ranges 1 to 11, east and west of the first principal meridian, according to Dominion survey, and

Whereas, the said boundaries of the province in the year 1881 were extended or enlarged so as to comprise as a whole townships 1 to 44, in ranges 1 to 29 west, and east to the westerly boundary of Ontario, which westerly boundary was understood to be in a line due north from the international boundary and passing some distance east of Port Arthur, and thus giving the province of Manitoba a port on Lake Superior, and so increasing its area from 13,464 square miles to 154,411 square miles, but unfortunately, as a result of the litigation respecting the boundary between this province and the province of Ontario, the said area was reduced by upwards of 100,000 square miles from that which this province had looked for, and

Whereas, the North-west Territories comprise all the territory formerly known as Rupert's Land and the North-west Territory, save and except that embraced within Manitoba and the districts of Keewatin and Yukon, otherwise and more fully described as the districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Athabasca, Mackenzie and Franklin, and

Whereas, the area of the province of Manitoba, exclusive of water, is approximately 60,000 square miles, and within the combined area of the North-west Territories are comprised millions of square miles, and

Whereas, official records disclose that the province of Manitoba contained in the year 1870 a population of 17,000; in 1881, 62,600; in 1891, 152,506; and in 1901, 254,947; the population of the North-west Territories, in the latter year, to be 158,941, or, with the unorganized districts, 184,467, and

Whereas, the large increase in the population of Manitoba strongly denotes, as the fact is, that rapid strides of advancement have been accomplished in the province since the creation thereof, and that the limited area of its boundaries may be, until expansion shall have been effected by the addition of further territory, a serious drawback to further development, and

Whereas, it is believed that the extension of the boundaries of the province so as to embrace and include a portion of the eastern portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, in the North-west Territories and northwards to Hudson's Bay, would largely tend to the material advantage of both Manitoba and of those persons within and that may hereafter become residents of the said proposed extended territory, and

Whereas, the province of Manitoba possesses legislative powers and advantages of an educational, commercial, benevolent and charitable character not at present possessed or enjoyed by the North-west Territories, and

Whereas, the larger area within the North-west Territories, scattered settlements, diversity of interests, inadequate revenue for substantial development, limited railway facilities, cannot but seriously impair and retard the growth and welfare thereof, making it desirable, therefore, that a portion of the said area should be attached to and become a part of the province of Manitoba, where, as aforesaid, more favourable conditions exist for material advancement, and

Whereas, similarity of interests, agricultural and otherwise, between the province of Manitoba and the proposed extended territory renders the accomplishment of such extension as aforesaid of paramount importance to both, and

Whereas, the addition of a portion of the area of the North-west Territories to the province of Manitoba, as aforesaid, does not present financial or other difficulties incapable of amicable, satisfactory and equitable adjustment.

Therefore let it be resolved,

1. That this House is of the opinion that it is desirable both in the interests and for the welfare of the province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, that the area of the former should be increased by an extension of boundaries so as to embrace and include a portion of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan and northwards to Hudson's Bay, and

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 102

Whereas, this House desires to reaffirm the foregoing resolution, believing as it does, that the early extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba westward and northward to Hudson's Bay is of the highest importance to the interests of the province and the territory proposed to be added.

Therefore let it be resolved,

1. That an humble address setting forth the allegations set forth in the foregoing resolutions previously adopted by this House, with such other data as the exigency of the case may require, be prepared by such members of this House as comprise the Executive, and presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency in Council will be pleased to take such action as shall result in the boundaries of the province of Manitoba being extended westward and northward to Hudson's Bay at an early date.

2. That a committee of this House, comprised as aforesaid, be appointed to make all due enquiries into all and singular the best means of bringing about the said object and to ascertain the most favourable terms and conditions upon which the same may be accomplished, and that for that purpose aforesaid the said committee may adopt such means as may be deemed necessary or expedient in the premises.

3. That the said committee have power and authority to confer with the Executive of the Dominion and North-west Governments and such other persons or committee of persons upon all such matters respecting or incident to the said enquiry as may be deemed necessary.

DEPARTMENT PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, MANITOBA.

WINNIPEG, January 20, 1905.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.,  
President of the King's Privy Council for Canada,  
Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—The Government of Manitoba, on motion of the Legislative Assembly, has to-day forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General a memorial relating to the extension of the boundaries of the province, and I am directed to write you and request that you will be pleased to appoint an early date for receiving a deputation from the Government of Manitoba, in relation to the matter. It would be appreciated if such a date could be named for the first or second week in February.

D. H. McFADDEN,  
Provincial Secretary..

OTTAWA, January 23, 1905.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 19th instant, transmitting a Memorial from your Ministers, addressed to His Excellency the Governor General, respecting the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba, and to say that the same shall be duly submitted to His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

JOSEPH POPE,  
Under Secretary of State.

OTTAWA, January 24, 1905.

Hon. D. H. McFADDEN,  
Winnipeg, Man.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 20th instant, informing me that the Legislative Assembly has forwarded to His Ex-

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

cellency the Governor General in Council, a memorial relating to the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba, and asking to have a date fixed ~~for~~ receiving a deputation from the Government of Manitoba in connection with this matter.

The memorial has not yet been received at the office of the Privy Council. I shall bring your request to the attention of the government as soon as possible after its receipt, and will communicate with you again later on.

WILFRID LAURIER,

OTTAWA, February 6, 1905.

The Honourable J. P. WHITNEY,  
Attorney General of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario.

SIR,—In accordance with your request addressed to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, I beg to inclose a copy of the application of Manitoba for extension of its boundaries.

R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State.

(Telegram.)

OTTAWA, February 13, 1905.

Hon. D. H. McFADDEN,  
Winnipeg, Man.

With reference to your last memorial, *re* extension of limits, will be ready to receive your delegates at any time convenient to you.

WILFRID LAURIER.

(Telegram.)

15 WINNIPEG, MAN., February 13.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Replying to your telegram on even date, Hon. Messrs. Rogers and Campbell have been appointed to confer with your government regarding extension of boundaries. They leave here to-morrow, will reach Ottawa, Thursday, sixteenth. Kindly notify them at Russell House as to time and place for interview suitable to your own convenience.

D. H. McFADDEN.

OTTAWA, February 16, 1905.

Hon. COLIN CAMPBELL,  
The Russell, Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be glad to receive you to-morrow, the 17th instant, at 12.30 o'clock, in his office, Privy Council.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,  
Private Secretary.

PREMIER'S OFFICE, TORONTO, March 2, 1905.

The Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER,  
Ottawa.

MY DEAR SIR WILFRID LAURIER,—I have noticed several statements in the press of the province during the past week referring to an alleged proposed division by the

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 102

Dominion among the provinces of the territory lying to the south and west of James' Bay and Hudson's Bay, and known as the Territory of Keewatin.

Presumably the province of Ontario should be entitled to a large portion of this territory, and should be heard with reference to any proposed division of it.

Assuming that such a division is in contemplation, I respectfully and earnestly urge upon you that before the details of such division be decided upon, or even considered, the province of Ontario be allowed to submit to the Dominion Government, for consideration with reference to such proposed division, its claim to that portion of such territory as it may fairly urge should be allotted to it.

J. P. WHITNEY.

OTTAWA, March 4, 1905.

Hon. J. P. WHITNEY,  
Toronto.

MY DEAR MR. WHITNEY,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of March 2. You have anticipated the action which I intend to take. The province of Manitoba has asked us to have its territory extended to Hudson's Bay. It seems to me that this is a matter in which the province of Ontario might have an interest. I will ask the Secretary of State to send you an official copy of the claim of Manitoba. In the meantime, I send you one under cover.

WILFRID LAURIER.

OTTAWA, March 4, 1905.

Hon. R. W. SCOTT,  
Ottawa.

DEAR MR. SCOTT,—I have received from the Hon. J. P. Whitney, Premier of Ontario, a letter asking for a copy of the application of Manitoba for an extension of its territory. Would you kindly send him an official copy of the same at your earliest convenience.

WILFRID LAURIER.

*EXTRACT from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on March 21, 1905.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Memorial dated January 19, 1905, from the provincial government of Manitoba, praying for an extension of the boundaries of the province westward to include a portion of the present districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, and northward to Hudson Bay.

The Committee observe that this request is not new, and they wish to recall that more than twenty years ago the Legislature of Manitoba addressed a memorial to the Governor General in Council embodying several petitions, one of which related to the extension of the boundaries of the province in a westerly direction.

The Committee observe that the Ministry of the day declared themselves unable to assent to this proposal. Their reasons are embodied in a Minute of the Privy Council dated April 1, 1884, which may conveniently be reproduced here:

'The boundaries of Manitoba were originally fixed at the instance of the delegates from that province, who came to Ottawa in the year 1870, to adjust with the government of Canada the terms upon which Manitoba was to enter the confederation of Her Majesty's North American provinces,

'The limits then agreed to embraced an area of about 9,500,000 acres. In the year 1881 these limits were enlarged, and territory added to the west and north making the total area of the province 96,000,000 ares, or 150,000 square miles.

'In the same year the true western boundary of Ontario was fixed as the eastern limit of Manitoba, which may add largely to the area of the province.



4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

The further enlargement now asked for by Manitoba would add about 180,000 square miles to the already large area of the province, and would be viewed with disfavour as well by the old provinces as by the new districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabasca, which have been created in the North-west Territories, and which will ultimately become provinces of the Dominion. It would largely add to the expenses of the government without increasing the resources of Manitoba, already pronounced by the government of the province to be insufficient to meet its normal and necessary expenditure.

The Committee, under these circumstances, humbly submit to Your Excellency that it is inexpedient to alter the boundaries of the provinces as prayed for.

The Committee submit that these considerations, which appeared conclusive to the government of Canada in 1884, do not, it is true, possess any considerable force when looked upon from the standpoint of the present condition of affairs. The settlement of the boundary of Ontario did not bring about the anticipated increase in the area of Manitoba, and it has not been deemed wise to erect the provisional districts of Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Athabasca into four separate provinces. On the contrary, the measure now before parliament provides for the division of these territories into two provinces, thus leaving an undeniable disparity between the area of the two provinces about to be created and the area of the province of Manitoba.

The Committee of the Privy Council submit that notwithstanding that they have the utmost sympathy with the desire of the province of Manitoba to increase its area, it must be recognized that circumstances have greatly changed since 1881. When the addition was made to the province of Manitoba of what is known as the 'added territory' in the year 1881, there existed no serious obstacle to the extension of the boundary of Manitoba at that time from one to two hundred miles further westward. Unfortunately for the solution of the question in the manner desired by the province of Manitoba, conditions have materially changed since that date. The strip of territory which lies in the proposed province of Saskatchewan immediately to the westward of the boundary of Manitoba, is one of the most thickly settled districts in the North-west Territories. It is not in the position that it was in 1881, but on the contrary it is now a settled country with defined and well-established institutions, occupied by people who have in the main resided upon their present locations sufficiently long to become the owners of the property which they occupy.

The Committee further submit that all information in their hands or available indicates that the people occupying the strip of territory in question may be said to be unanimously and determinedly opposed to being united with the Province of Manitoba.

The Committee do not propose to discuss the reasons for the existence of such a sentiment nor whether there are just grounds for its existence or not.

The Committee submit that in corroboration of the view above expressed, a resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories, passed on the 20th May, 1901, may be cited. It is not suggested that the resolution of the Assembly should be regarded as conclusively deciding the question for the Government of Canada, but it may be cited as indicating what the Legislative Assembly thought of the proposition which is now being considered.

'This House is strongly opposed to any further extension of the western boundary of the Province of Manitoba, and in the opinion of the House any such extension would be opposed to the wishes and detrimental to the interests not only of any portion of the territories more directly affected thereby but of the territories as a whole.'

The Committee desire nevertheless to observe that the arguments above advanced and the resolution of the North-west Legislature above referred to, have reference solely to a westerly extension. These objections do not seem to have been urged against an enlargement of Manitoba's boundaries towards the north, and it has been with a view to the future consideration of such a proposal that Your Excellency's advisers did not by the measure now before parliament include within the proposed limits of the

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 102

new Province of Saskatchewan the north-eastern portion of the provisional district of that name or the eastern portion of Athabaska.

The Committee are likewise of the opinion that the desire of the Province of Manitoba for an extension of its boundaries to the shores of Hudson's Bay is not an unreasonable one, and they suggest that when the measures now before parliament for the formation of the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are disposed of, the subject of such an extension of the boundaries of Manitoba might profitably be considered.

It is possible that in this connection, questions may arise which concern other provinces, inasmuch as the territories lying to the north of other provinces may be made the subject of requests of a character similar to that of the Province of Manitoba in the present case.

The Committee therefore recommend that at a convenient date after the formation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the request of the Province of Manitoba for an extension northward be taken up with the object of coming to a speedy conclusion, and trust that this suggestion may be acceptable to the government of the Province of Manitoba, whose welfare and development the present ministry desire to promote in every way compatible with their obligations towards the other provinces of the Dominion.

The Committee advise that a copy of this minute be communicated to the Lieutenant Governors of Manitoba and Ontario, and at a later date to the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, for the information of their respective governments.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,  
*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
WINNIPEG, MAN., March 23, 1905.

The Honourable the Secretary of State, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of departmental letter, bearing date March 24, 1905, transmitting me a copy of a minute of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 21st instant, in reply to the memorial of the government of Manitoba praying for an extension of the boundaries of this province.

I now beg to state that I have forwarded a copy of the minute of the Privy Council to the honourable my provincial secretary for the information of my ministers.

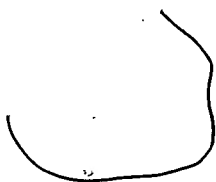
D. H. MCMILLAN,  
Lieutenant Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
TORONTO, March 25, 1905.

The Under Secretary of State, Ottawa.

SIR,—I am directed by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of a minute of the Privy Council, being a reply to a memorial from the provincial government of Manitoba.

T. P. MACDONALD, CAPT., O.S.C.,  
Official Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



## RETURN

(102a)

The Honourable

The Secretary of State,  
Ottawa.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Winnipeg, April 1, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, a certified copy of an Order in Council together with the report annexed thereto in reply to a report of a committee of the Honourable the Privy Council *re* the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba.

D. H. McMILLAN,  
Lieutenant Governor.

*To His Honour Sir Daniel Hunter McMillan, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, &c., &c.*

REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council on matters referred to their consideration.

## PRESENT:

The Honourable Mr. Roblin (in the chair); Mr. McFadden, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Agnew.

## ON MATTERS OF STATE.

*May it please Your Honour:*

On the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council,

## COMMITTEE ADVISE

That the annexed report, in reply to a report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, *re* the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba, be approved.

Respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN,  
Chairman.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy.

(Sgd.) C. GRABURN,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Approved and ordered March 31, 1905.  
(Sgd.) D. H. McMILLAN.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

March 31, 1905.

The Executive of the Government of Manitoba have had under consideration the reply of the Privy Council of Canada, bearing date March 21, 1905, to the memorial of the Government of the province of Manitoba, bearing date the 19th day of January, 1905, desire to reaffirm the position taken by them on behalf of the province of Manitoba, and to strongly protest against the delay in action now proposed by the said minute of Council, bearing date the 21st day of March, 1905, and object to the intervention of parties not concerned in the territory asked for.

The Executive of the government further observe that the territory westerly and northerly now asked for by the province of Manitoba is entirely comprised within the area acquired from the Imperial Government after the surrender of the Hudson's Bay Company's rights and did not form part of Old Canada, and we dispute the fairness or the right of any of the old provinces of Canada to have their territory added to therefrom at the expense of Manitoba or their rights of consultation as to its disposition.

The Government of Manitoba further observe that the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speech introducing the Bills to create the proposed provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, used the following language:—

'But, Sir, there is another demand of the province of Manitoba which I think is entitled to fair consideration. Manitoba has asked to have her territory extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay; and this is a prayer which seems to me to be entitled to a fair hearing. But the province of Manitoba is not the only one whose territory could be extended towards Hudson's Bay. The province of Ontario would have the same right; the province of Quebec would also have that right; and the new province of Saskatchewan would have an equal right to have her territory extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay. Therefore in the project which we have to present to the House to-day, instead of including in the province of Saskatchewan that portion of territory lying north of Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba, we propose to leave that outside to be included, neither in Saskatchewan nor in Manitoba, but to be dealt with at a future day. And I may say at once that I have the authority of my colleagues to make the announcement that we propose to invite the province of Ontario, the province of Quebec, the province of Manitoba, and the province of Saskatchewan to meet us here to decide whether or not it is advisable that the limits of any of these provinces should be extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay, and if so, in what manner it should be done.'

The Government of Manitoba cannot accede to the statement that these provinces have any right to decide on the merits of the claim set up by the province of Manitoba, for the following, amongst other reasons:—The territory did not form part of Old Canada; Quebec and Ontario now border on that part of Hudson's Bay, called James Bay, and the proposed province of Saskatchewan is now being created largely out of territory which Manitoba has claimed since 1884, and which was withheld because Manitoba was then supposed to go easterly to the 90th meridian.

The province of Manitoba considers that there would be equally as much ground for this province being called into conference with the province of Quebec on the disposition of Ungava as for Quebec or Ontario being called into conference with us on the disposition of the territory now being asked for by the province of Manitoba.

The Executive further observe that in the year 1881, when Manitoba's boundaries were enlarged it was the fixed determination of the government of Canada to give to the province of Manitoba an area somewhat similar to the eastern provinces, approximately 150,000 square miles, the easterly boundary presumably being the 90th meridian.

And the Executive further observe that in the year 1882 the province of Manitoba further urged the extension of its boundaries, and at the time of the Minute of Council

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 102a

referred to, dated April 1, 1884, the eastern boundary of the province of Manitoba had not been determined, and Manitoba had not had its territory lessened by the boundary award, and in the opinion of the Executive, the minute, instead of affording justification to the now proposed action by the Dominion Government, constitutes in addition to the other strong claims advanced by Manitoba for extension, a strong argument for the immediate granting of the request of the province of Manitoba.

The province of Manitoba, through its people and government, have contributed largely to the development and advancement of the territory now asked for, and the settlement of people which has taken place has been with the full knowledge of the claims of Manitoba for extension of its territory, and the government cannot too strongly protest against the injustice being done in Manitoba in this respect and the inequality in territory is openly manifest to every one.

The disposition of the territory is a matter entirely within the competence of the government of Canada, who can determine the territory to be added, and we must respectfully press for the decision of the Government of Canada thereon.

The Government of Manitoba can see no good reason justifying the proposed conference, and reserves it itself and the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba all and every constitutional action, should the injustice and inequality be not speedily remedied.

The Government of Manitoba, in conclusion, exceedingly regret that, in their judgment, the circumstances compel them to use the strong and urgent language contained in this reply.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the report annexed to the original Order in Council, No. 9800 K.

C. GRABURN,

Clerk of the Executive Council of Manitoba.